

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 120, Baton Rouge, LA

October 15, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Mark Harrell, James Little, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Tamiara Wade

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee, Edwin Parker, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

ARBC Commissioner Lionel Bailey entered the meeting at 5:27 pm.

Vacancy: St. James Parish

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

Babin welcomed new ARBC Commissioner, representing St. Helena Parish, Mark Harrell. He filled the position left vacant by former ARBC Commissioner Matt Milazzo.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.
4. 2018-19 Audit Report: John McKowen, CPA: The audit reflected no violations of state rules or deficiencies in the financial statements. In the opinion of the auditor the ARBC is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and the Legislative Auditors Office, as well as internal controls of financial matters within the district. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Thibeau to accept the audit report as presented.
5. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thomas to approve the August 2019 regular meeting minutes. There was a quarterly public meeting at the Library in Watson located in Livingston Parish on September 18, 2019. Presentations were made on the CRDC Project by ARBC, USACE, and DOTD.
6. Financial Statement Report
 - Hoover presented to the Board the August/September 2019 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Thomas to approve the August/September 2019 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
7. Executive Director Report
 - Rietschier read and discussed the CRDC Project status report as provided by DOTD as follows: Real estate is working on priority acquisitions at this time for the entire project. On the west side of US61, the Entergy 69kV is scheduled to be relocated by mid-December, and CenturyLink is continuing their efforts. On the east side of US61, ExxonMobil has mobilized and is beginning their horizontal directional drill. LA 964 continues in design with an anticipated bid date in early 2020. A designer has been selected for LA19 and LA67 and will begin work in the next few weeks.
 - Rietschier said that ARBC had purchased a lot of property in the past which is helping DOTD now with moving forward but DOTD needs to accelerate acquisition of property. ARBC is responsible for the Floodplain Management Plan as part of the PCA for the CRDC Project. (ARBC Commissioner Lionel Bailey entered the meeting).
 - Watershed Initiative Discussion: The Board discussed the Watershed Initiative especially in relation to District 7. A Steering Committee is being created which includes 13 parishes in the Capital Region that includes West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Ascension, St. James and St. Charles and is made up of 27 people. This committee is being created for the purpose to select flood amelioration projects in this region. Funding is coming from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is administered under the state Watershed Initiative. The state is expected to receive \$11.2 billion statewide. Rietschier also presented to the Board a letter (email) that was sent to the State Office of Community Development, the agency administering the Watershed Initiative, requesting that the integrity of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District be kept intact in this process of re-organizing watershed districts.
 - Approval of Temporary Project Servitude to DOTD: The Board unanimously agreed to approve the Temporary Project Servitude to DOTD on motion by Bailey, second by Hoover. This is ARBC Resolution #1149.

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8. ARBC Legal Counsel: The Board agreed not to act at this time on the proposed CEA amendment with DOTD. ARBC has put up approximately \$26 million in local tax funds toward the CRDC Project which makes ARBC the largest contributor beside the USACE.
9. Old Business – None.
10. New Business: Renew GeoQuery/ARBC Contract: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, second by Wade to renew the professional service contract for 3 years between GeoQuery and ARBC for the ARBC website. There was no fee increase.
11. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting on motion by Hoover, second by Thomas.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President
Date: November 19, 2019

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary